BLACK STAR

BOSSES KEEP THE TIP

The UK Labour Government passed a new law on 1 October that prevented employers from withholding tips from workers. The new law offers legal guarantees that force bosses to be 'fair and transparent' about the allocation of tips, with 100 per cent to go to workers within a month of receiving them. The legislation, it announced at the same time, does not apply to Northern Ireland and Stormont, unsurprisingly, are offering no protest. Workers and unions are up in arms that the estimated £200 million being stolen by employers, particularly across the hospitality sector, which employs around 65,000 people here, is being allowed to continue. The announcement coincides with the wider campaign of the International Workers' Association for the week of actions against wage theft, the International Week Against Unpaid Wages (14-20 October), supported by Organise! Friends of the IWA-AIT in Ireland.

'I worked in a café. They could afford to pay for their own milk supplies but they were taking it out of the tips which customers gave to us… but you can be really reliant on tips'

Omagh barista

Seagate workers organise

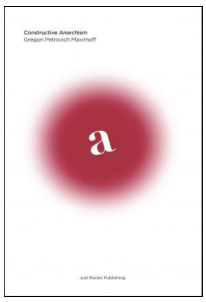
Seagate is a US company that came to Derry and Limavady as part of the so-called peace dividend back in the 1990s. The firm was a typical Silicon Valley tech manufacturer that didn't do unions, despite many attempts by workers at both plants to organise. In 2008, they closed the Limavady plant and threw 1000 workers onto the scrapheap and ever since there have been growing fears for the Derry operation from time to time. A combination of these things and the ongoing efforts of the workforce, supported by Derry Trades Council, resulted in Unite gaining recognition and negotiating rights in two votes among engineering specialists in January and September this year. It needs to go further of course, and include all workers but it is a breakthrough for those at Seagate. Obviously, this isn't revolutionary trades unionism and workers would do well to realise the limitations of the tools that they have for effecting meaningful change, but is at least a start.

Dublin Gaza Protest

Organise! members and supporters attended the anti-war protest in Dublin on Saturday, 5 October, the tenth such march and rally since the Israeli invasion of Gaza began last year. Thousands of protestors from a wide range of groups joined those marching across Britain and Europe in a day of action in solidarity with Palestinian people and indeed those in Lebanon who are now also suffering under the murderous assault of the IDF and their allies. It also gave us the opportunity to unveil our new banner, carried in a demonstration for the first but unfortunately, while war and imperialism continue, far from the last time.

Just Books Publishing

Just Books Publishing, set up by the Just Books Collective, has so far published its first two titles.



The first is a reprint of Gregori Maximoff's *Constructive Anarchism*, to mark the 100th year of existence of the International Workers Association (IWA) the Anarcho-Syndicalist international founded in Berlin in 1922.

isbn 9781739723705

£7.99

The second title, now with a new cover, is Nick Heath's *The Idea. Anarchist Communism: Past, Present and Future* - a welcome and new comprehensive work on anarchist communism, this book seeks to rehabilitate the current of anarchist-communism. To make it better known and understood.

...a good substantial book, and much needed. Lucidly written, it provides a rich brew of engaging discussions of the 'Idea' (anarchist communism as a political philosophy), interesting vignettes of many individual anarchists, and a great historical account of the many anarchist communist organisations over the past 150 years... (Brian Morris on *The Idea)*

isbn 9781739723712

£15.00

Available from:

https://organiseanarchistsireland.com/shop/

Assault on CNT-AIT continues

A corner of the USI archive maintained by the USI Ancona

Several sections of the USI-CIT (the affiliate to the International Confederation of Labour in Italy) have released a statement in solidarity with our comrades in the CNT-IWA and in opposition to the court action being pursued against them by the Spanish section of the USI's international the CNT-CIT (see previous issues for more information on the attacks on the CNT-IWA).

There have been quite serious repercussions for this act of solidarity with the Union sections of the USI. The 'national secretariat' of the USI, acting in a centralised fashion has declared the CNT-CIT 'the only legitimate CNT' disowning the statement of sections of their own Union, going so far as to lie claiming some of the signatories are not affiliated to the USI. Attacks have also been launched on some of the Unions.

In particular the USI-CIT Ancona, which runs the USI archive is under threat of expulsion by the national secretariat. While these lies and attacks are designed to minimise the solidarity expressed with the CNT-IWA by sections in the USI these Unions have taken a principled position against the Union busting of the Spanish section of the CIT. Union busting which, to their shame, is supported or ignored by other affiliates of the International Confederation of Labour across the world.

Como secciones e individuos de la **USI-CIT**, al expresar nuestra solidaridad con los trabajadores españoles de la CNT-CIT en "Suiza", que recientemente fueron condenados por sus actividades sindicales, también queremos extender nuestra solidaridad a los sindicatos y trabajadores españoles de la **CNT-AIT**, que actualmente están involucrados en un proceso judicial iniciado por la propia CNT-CIT. Esta acción legal busca, en efecto, suprimir a la CNT-AIT, impidiéndoles usar sus históricas siglas, confiscando sus bienes y exigiendo sumas astronómicas por supuestos "daños morales". Tal conducta amenaza con aniquilar un sindicato, borrando su historia y su contribución a la lucha de clases.

Recurrir a los tribunales burgueses, y más aún en perjuicio de otro sindicato y de las luchas y reivindicaciones de otros trabajadores, no forma parte de la identidad del anarcosindicalismo ni de la lucha de clases. Como miembros de la CIT, **pedimos la retirada de esta acción legal.**

USI Sezione Venezia
USI Sezione Ancona
USI Sezione Perugia-Trasimeno
USI Sezione Macerata
USI Sanità Milano S. Ospedali San Paolo e San Carlo
Unione Contadina USI sezione Misa-Esino
Elvino Petrossi (USI Trieste)

As sections and individuals of **USI-CIT**, in expressing solidarity with the Spanish workers of CNT-CIT in "Suiza" who were recently convicted for their union activities, we also wish to extend our solidarity to the Spanish unions and workers of **CNT-AIT**, currently involved in a legal case initiated by CNT-CIT.

This legal action effectively seeks to suppress CNT-AIT, preventing them from using their historic acronym, seizing their assets, and demanding astronomical sums for alleged "moral damages."

Such conduct risks annihilating a union, erasing its history and its contribution to the class struggle.

Resorting to bourgeois courts, and especially to the detriment of another union and the struggles of other workers, is not part of the identity of anarcho-syndicalism or the class struggle.

As members of CIT, **we call for the withdrawal of this legal action.**

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Unione Contadina USI sezione Misa-Esino
Elvino Petrossi (USI Trieste)

Come sezioni ed individualità dell'**USI-CIT** nell'esprimere solidarietà ai lavoratori spagnoli della CNT-CIT della "Suiza" recentemente condannati per le loro attività sindacali, desideriamo estendere la nostra solidarietà anche ai sindacati ed ai lavoratori spagnoli della **CNT-AIT**, attualmente coinvolti in un processo scaturito dall'azione legale della stessa CNT-CIT. Questa azione mira nei fatti a sopprimere la CNT-AIT, impedendone l'uso della sigla storica, sequestrando i loro beni e richiedendo somme astronomiche per presunti "danni morali". Tale condotta rischia di annientare un sindacato, cancellandone la storia e il contributo alla lotta di classe.

Il ricorso ai tribunali borghesi, per di più ai danni di un altro sindacato e delle lotte e vertenze di altri lavoratori, non fa parte dell'identità dell'anarcosindacalismo e della lotta di classe.

Come membri della CIT, **chiediamo il ritiro di questa azione legale.**

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Meanwhile... in Ballymena

Some craic with the Villa Vie Odyssey cruise ship the last couple of weeks, apparently the fat rich American bastards were happier to sit in Belfast harbour for an extra few days than go on another day trip here to Ballymena.

Hopefully, their voyage won't meet with the same fate as another oul' cruise ship that left Belfast back in 1912!

Talking of cunts on the high seas, I see Starmer's Labour Government are bringing in the minimum wage for the ferry operators, which they'll have to abide by. They also said that they will stop the 'fire and re-hire' tactic which saw P&O sack their workforce for agency staff back in 2022 (clause coming) 'except where employers genuinely have no alternative'. Of course, they always claim to have no alternative, that's the fuckin point. Between that and fucking over the pensioners with the withdrawal of winter fuel allowance, New New Labour have got off the same old start with no doubt, more to come.

Get Involved: Help Build A Working Class Alternative.

ORGANISE!

FRIENDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' ASSOCIATION · AMIGOS DE LA ASOCIACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE LAS Y LOS TRABAJADORES

WWW.ORGANISEANARCHISTSIRELAND.COM

Organise! is an anarcho-syndicalist group in Ireland which is affiliated to the International Worker's Association as 'friends of' section. We take inspiration from the self directed struggles of working-class people, and particularly the history and tradition of struggle epitomised by the IWA - the anarcho-syndicalist international. Our history goes back to the original formation of Organise! by the Ballymena and Antrim Anarchist Groups in 1985.

We are a small, but growing, group of ordinary working class people who are fed up with being fucked about by the profit system, fed up with seeing our communities and workplaces torn apart by racism, patriarchy, nationalism and sectarianism, and sick of a greedy few getting rich off everyone else's backs.

We are actively working to promote solidarity in opposition to capitalism, the state, patriarchy and all other forms of oppression and hierarchy. The way we organise reflects the free society we want to create: one based on voluntary association, democratic participation and self-management.

Our members are workers, claimants, students, migrants, unemployed and other working-class people committed to building a libertarian communist union movement actively opposed to all forms of oppression and exploitation.

We want to improve everyday conditions for ourselves and other working class people, but we also struggle for the revolutionary transformation that can create a free and equal society, one based on mutual aid and co-operation. Sound crazy? Maybe it does, but in an era in which it is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism the continuation of the present system is even crazier…

The current system isn't working – ill-health, stress and overwork affect more and more people while others are flung on the dole; for increasing amounts of workers it is precarity, zero hours contracts and the stress of being unable to plan or budget our lives; we live in a world of plentiful resources yet millions starve; some people make vast fortunes just because they own companies, land, property or natural resources, but those of us who create the wealth, work the land and build the properties are left struggling to survive; politicians tell us there's no money – not for wages, benefits or local amenities, but there's always plenty for war; both locally and globally the gap between the richest and the poorest sections of society has never been so great; instead of a war on poverty they've got a war on 'benefit fraud', while the same system that creates war, poverty and environmental destruction stigmatises, imprisons and deports the resultant refugees.

We don't think these things are inevitable or coincidental, we think they are related to capitalism – an economic system defined by wage slavery and the accumulation of profit out of other people's work. So we support all workers against their bosses in demanding higher wages and better conditions. We try to intervene practically to support workers engaged in disputes and are also active in our own workplaces and communities. Not only against exploitation but against the multiple oppressions faced by members of the working class in all our diversity.

But it's not just a question of trying to struggle by in a world of exploitation and oppression; we look to a future where workers control production and society in their own interests. And unlike some people who claim to oppose capitalism, we don't want to be a new set of leaders and we refuse to be led by anyone else. We advocate direct democracy in the workplace and through the commune in our communities – working in federation to ensure that the needs of all are met and that no-one is ever again in a position to oppress or exploit another human being.

If you are interested in these ideas, we'd encourage you to explore our website and consider getting involved.

We currently have members in Belfast, Cork, Derry, Dublin, Lisburn, Monaghan, Newry, Newtownabbey and Portadown and are building the organisation on the basis of active involvement and participation. We have a new Local in Formation in South Ulster. We aren't interested in meaningless 'paper' membership so you can't join by filling in an online form and bunging us a few quid. Every member is an active member.

To talk to us about joining get the ball rolling, check out our website at https://organiseanarchistsireland.com and send an email to: organiseasi@gmail.com